

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the Revocation)	ORDER OF
)	
or Suspension of the Educator)	SUMMARY SUSPENSION
)	
Certificate of Stephen D. Wyman,)	
)	
Certificate 206965)	

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on July 12, 2006. In accordance with S.C. Code Ann. § 1-23-370(c) (2004), the State Department of Education (Department) requested that the State Board summarily suspend the educator certificate of Stephen D. Wyman, certificate 206965, as a result of his arrest on one count of Lewd Act on a Minor, two counts of Contributing to the Delinquency of a Minor and one count of Dissemination of Obscene Material to a Minor. The Department has reason to believe that, due to the nature of the allegations of misconduct against Mr. Wyman, he may pose a threat to the health, safety, or welfare of students that may be under his instruction. After considering the evidence presented by the Department, the State Board voted to summarily suspend Mr. Wyman's certificate until a due process hearing is held and/or this matter is otherwise resolved. The Department is directed to send a notice to Mr. Wyman of the summary suspension, as well as the possible suspension or revocation of his educator certificate, by certified mail, return receipt requested, delivery restricted to addressee.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Mr. Wyman has over five years of teaching experience, and has been employed with the McCormick County School District since 2000. During the 2005-06 school year, Mr. Wyman was assigned as a Social Studies teacher at McCormick Middle School. Effective June 5, 2006, Mr. Wyman resigned from his position with the District following allegations that he had engaged

in inappropriate conduct toward and in the presence of students. He was subsequently arrested on June 30, 2006, and charged with one count of Lewd Act on a Minor, two counts of Contributing to the Delinquency of a Minor and one count of Dissemination of Obscene Material to a Minor.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

“The South Carolina Board of Education may, for just cause, either revoke or suspend the certificate of any person.” S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-150 (2004). Just cause includes unprofessional conduct, immorality, crime against the law of this State or the United States and evident unfitness for position for which employed. S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2004); 24 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 43-58 (1992). In accordance with S.C. Code Ann. § 1-23-370(c) (2004), “If the agency finds that public health, safety or welfare imperatively requires emergency action, and incorporates a finding to that effect in its order, summary suspension of a license may be ordered pending proceedings for revocation or other action.” The State Board finds that there is reason to believe that Mr. Wyman may pose a threat to the welfare of students that may be under his instruction. Accordingly, the State Board thereby summarily suspends Mr. Wyman’s certificate 206965 until a due process hearing is held and/or this matter is otherwise resolved.

South Carolina State Board of Education

By: /S/ Joe Isaac
Joe Isaac
Chair

Columbia, South Carolina
July 12, 2006